



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

tions which existed at the moment when the national banking system was conceived as a remedy for the existing troubles, and as a means of getting a good return for bonds. He has carefully examined the familiar material and in addition has had before him data collected by Mr. C. O. Ruggles involving a research into the papers of George Harrington, Jordan, and others, as well as into the correspondence of Mr. Chase as found in the archives of the Pennsylvania Historical Society and the Library of Congress. It does not appear that this careful research and scrutiny has been well repaid, for when the quoted bills, laws, and correspondence are eliminated from the monograph, the body of the work is small, and what there is of it is merely a clear and quite satisfactory statement of matter, all of whose essential elements were already available.

H. P. W.

The Use of Credit Instruments. By DAVID KINLEY. Report of the National Monetary Commission, Senate Document No. 399, 61st Congress, 2d Session, 1910. (Washington: Superintendent of Documents, 1910. Pp. 229.)

In this volume Professor Kinley has renewed and continued, under the auspices of the National Monetary Commission, the valuable studies of the use of credit instruments which he made in conjunction with the Comptroller of the Currency and some other investigators in 1896. The present inquiry does not depend at all upon the former investigations, but it makes use of the experience obtained at that time, avoids some of the errors which were then committed, and goes materially further than did the earlier studies. In this inquiry a letter was sent out by the Comptroller of the Currency to all banks throughout the country, asking for information as to the number and classification of depositors at banks, the local methods of paying wages, and the like. Deposits were to be classified as made by (1) retail dealers, (2) wholesale dealers, and (3) all other depositors; while the blanks distributed to the banks were to show the amount of deposits made in gold coin, silver coin, paper currency, and checks and drafts. As subsidiary information, the blanks called for the estimated amount

of the pay-rolls paid by the customers of the banks in cash during a week preceding the inquiry, the amount of pay-rolls paid by check, the aggregate amount of individual deposits on a given date, the aggregate amount of other deposits, and the total number of accounts. The latter were grouped as accounts with balances under \$500, accounts with balances between \$500 and \$2500, and accounts with balances over \$2500. The inquiry differed from those of preceding years in that it was considerably more extensive. As before, it has included not only the national banks of the country, but also state and private banks, stock and mutual savings banks, and loan and trust companies. In all there were received 12,190 blanks in answer, and of these, 698 were rejected.

The returns showed that the retail deposits in all banks consisted of—gold, 2.3 per cent; silver, 2.4; specie, 4.7; currency, 22.1; and checks, 73.2 per cent. On the other hand, wholesale deposits were—.4 per cent gold, .3 silver, .7 specie, 2.9 currency, and 96.4 per cent checks. These percentages were classified and subclassified by groups of banks, by geographical areas, and by population groups, with a view to ascertaining the extent to which methods of payment varied in different parts of the country. Speaking of changes that have occurred in this respect, Professor Kinley says: "The conclusion reached in the inquiry of 1896 was that at least 80 per cent of the total business of the country at that time was settled by means of credit paper. The average per cent of the retail deposits made in the form of credit instruments, on the basis of the returns of that year, was 67. In the present returns it is 73 per cent." The report of 1896 reached the conclusion that in retail trade probably about 55 per cent of all transactions were carried out by means of checks. The present investigation, however, has led to the conclusion that that figure is too low, and that the use of checks has grown considerably in the past fifteen years. Not less than 60 per cent of retail trade is now believed to be carried on by the use of checks and, according to Professor Kinley, probably about 90 per cent of the wholesale business of the country is done by means of credit paper. The average percentage of retail and wholesale business done by checks and other credit paper is fixed at 85 or 86. Some very valuable conclusions as to the volume of credit transactions and the payment of wages by check are drawn, and particular value is attached

to the evidence obtained with regard to the effect of credit paper on the level of prices.

Professor Kinley's inquiry is of material value. It has furnished a much needed source of information in a field where data are scanty and unreliable at best. Through the coöperation of the Comptroller of the Currency he has been able to carry out an investigation of sufficient scope and thoroughness to insure the substantial accuracy of its conclusions. While there are some points at which additional data dealing with phases of the credit instrument question would have been very desirable, these points are in most cases such as are admittedly difficult to deal with statistically, and on which, therefore, returns would almost certainly be vitiated by unavoidable errors. On the whole, taking the investigation within the limits it set for itself, it leaves comparatively little to be desired.

H. PARKER WILLIS.

Washington, D. C.

Statistics for the United States, 1867-1909. By A. PLATT ANDREW, Compiler. Report of the National Monetary Commission, Senate Document 570, 61st Congress, 2nd Session, 1910. (Washington: Superintendent of Documents, 1910. Pp. 282.)

This volume of statistics, compiled for the National Monetary Commission, covers all of those facts relating to the growth of population, wealth, business, and commerce; banks and banking; gold supply, foreign and domestic cash movements, and rates of foreign and domestic exchange; and treasury operations, including government receipts and expenditures, bond issues and bond quotations, cash balances, gold holdings, deposits with the banks, etc., that are considered in any way germane to the present discussion of money and banking in the United States. The compilation is undoubtedly a good representative of the statistical work that is being done by the Monetary Commission. It may be stated without much fear of question that in thus supplying actual facts, compiled at considerable cost from the best sources, the Commission is doing its best service for the public. In this doc-